Might we not conclude from this, that at the epoch when these tertiary beds were formed, the latitude, the currents, and the orographic configuration, had the same influences as at the present day? Thence it may be allowable to imagine that the Cordilleras had, at that geological epoch, sufficient height to form, upon a vast scale, a barrier between the two seas, and that, since that epoch, the south continent has not changed its form.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Elements of Comparative Anatomy. By Rud. Wagner, M.D.; translated from the German by Alfred Tulk, M.R.C.S.E.

The greatest naturalist of modern times was also the highest authority in comparative anatomy; even as the first and greatest of naturalists in ancient times was also well-versed in the internal structure of the animals he classified. Cuvier and Aristotle had alike an intimate conviction of the necessity of comparative anatomy to the accomplishment of the zoologist. But comparative anatomy has still higher tendencies than those it possesses as guiding the zoologist in his arrangements: the form and structure of the living things that people and that have peopled this earth are intimately associated with its history, so that the geologist and palæontologist are scarcely less interested in a knowledge of comparative anatomy than the zoologist. More than this: function is identical throughout the animated realm of nature, and the physiologist, and, as a derivative from him, the physician and the surgeon, are all alike interested in possessing a comprehensive knowledge of the organs by which the specific functions, whose sum constitutes the life in each particular species of animals, are performed. Hence it comes that comparative anatomy has often been the preparative to the highest eminence ever achieved in the medical profession. We need only quote Mr. John Hunter in proof of the fact.

We had been for some time without a good elementary treatise on comparative anatomy in the English language. Strange as it may appear, it must still be allowed that there are certain subjects upon which we do not seem destined ever to possess perfectly satisfactory rudimentary works by native authors: comparative anatomy is one of these. The old standard was Blumenbach, which, translated by Mr. Lawrence, came to a second edition under the revision of Mr. Coulson. Then we had Carus, with the extent of whose success among us we are unacquainted. Now we have Wagner, a work which we cannot but regard as a great improvement upon all its predecessors. The grand features of the subject are in fact presented in the elements of comparative anatomy with the hand of a master, and the minor details are also there, just to the point that comes short of tediousness. The book is truly excellent, and we recommend all our readers to procure a copy, to interleave it, and have it at hand as the repository of any observations which they themselves may make.

The four parts already published, each complete in itself, comprise the anatomy of Mammalia, Birds, Reptiles and Fishes,—of the vertebrate animals therefore, and may be bound separately as a work perfect in itself. One word in reference to the translation: this we find faithful, and, like the original, terse and to the point; admirable for reference upon particular subjects, if less agreeable to read in the way we do a novel. Mr. Tulk is himself an excellent anatomist and naturalist, and deserves the thanks of all true friends of natural history for the pains he has taken in giving them a compendious guide to the very elements of all zoological science.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

April 23, 1844.—William Yarrell, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A continuation of Mr. Sylvanus Hanley's paper on new *Tellinæ* was read, containing the following descriptions:—

Tellina sincera. *Tel. testâ* T. carnariæ *simillimâ, sed majore, latiore, compressâ et albidâ; striis tenuioribus; ligamento valdè angusto; natibus paululùm ad latus anticum spectantibus; margine ventrali tantùm subarcuato; dentibus lateralibus conspicuis, subæquidistantibus.* Long. 1·20; lat. 1·40 poll.

Hab. ——? Mus. Cuming, Metcalfe.

Extremely like *T. carnaria*, but larger, broader, and more flattened. The oblique striæ are minute, and almost entirely disappear in aged specimens.

Tellina Senegalensis. *Tel. testâ* T. splendidæ *simillimâ, sed striis sulcisque exilioribus magisque confertis; extremitate etiam posticâ, striis arcuatis obliquis in utrâque valvulâ, ornatâ; superficie internâ purpureâ, albo posticè biradiatâ.* Long. 0·80; lat. 1 poll.

Hab. Senegal.

An extremely common shell, bearing some slight resemblance to *carnaria*, and has probably been hitherto neglected, from its close approximation to the *splendida* of Anton.

Tellina incarnata. *Tel. testâ obovatâ, subobliquâ, inæquilaterali, ventricosâ, solidâ, incarnatâ aut albido-roseâ, impolitâ; striis elevatis concentricis tenuissimis, strias radiantes elevatas confertissimè decussantibus; margine ventrali arcuato, posticè sursùm accliviore; dorsali anticè declivi et prope nates paululùm incurvato, posticè elevatiore subarcuato et subitò declinante; ligamento infosso; superficie internâ flavescente, margines versus subroseâ; dentibus lateralibus maximis.* Long. 0·70; lat. 0·95 poll.

Hab. San Nicholas, Zebu; sandy mud, low water.

This graceful species is allied in sculpture to the *decussata* of Lamarck, but the shape and colouring easily distinguish it. In almost every adult specimen the tips of the beaks are chalky white, the umbones yellow, and the ligamental edge rosy.

Tellina Lyra. *Tel. testâ ovali, tenui, compressâ, nitidiusculâ,*